

**Watch your step.** With recent icy weather, the sidewalks are treacherous. Most of our residents and businesses are very good about clearing adjacent sidewalks, but a few need a reminder.

Property owners or occupants are required by city ordinance to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property. Sidewalks are to be cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall. When ice builds up that cannot be removed, it is to be sprinkled with sand or salt within 24 hours. There are several barrels of a salt/sand mix placed in the business areas to assist with slippery sidewalks around the downtown.

When a property owner or occupant fails to remove (or sprinkle) snow and ice within the 24 hour timeframe, the city's Public Works Department may perform the work. The city will bill the property owner for the work; the city charges \$50 per hour with a one hour minimum. If unpaid, the bill will be levied as an assessment against the property.

Although not required by ordinance, residents are also encouraged to dig out fire hydrants near their homes.

**New plans in 2009.** Our new city planner John Stockham has started on the job this past week. Prior to forming his current sole-proprietorship Stockham Consulting, John was a consulting urban planner with several national firms. He was a partner and principal consultant with SmithGroup JJR and Camiros/Madison, Ltd. Prior to that, he was a partner of Stockham & Vandewalle. John brings over 30 years of professional planning experience with him to Evansville.

Although he has obviously worked for much larger communities; he also has significant small-town experience. His work is often focused on specialized communities. And for the past 12 years he has been the planner for the Village of Waunakee, an arrangement very similar to ours here in Evansville.

Many projects – whether large or small – involve zoning and land use, street and utility infrastructure, and legal and fiscal concerns. John understands the value of a team approach. We will begin holding regular staff meetings with the city planner, public works superintendent, water and light superintendent, city engineer, and city administrator.

During the interview process, one specific accomplishment which impressed me about John was his work with the boundary agreement between the Village of Waunakee and Town of Westport. This has been a very successful agreement and is often pointed to as a model from which other municipalities can learn.

John's regular, weekly office hours at City Hall will be Wednesday mornings. He is also available by phone at 608-233-1827 or email at [jstockham@charter.net](mailto:jstockham@charter.net).

**City website.** We have been making a number of updates to the city website [www.ci.evansville.wi.gov](http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov). Most of them have been to improve the organization of the site and to make it more user-friendly, for example using more refined lists for drop down menus and

adding a search function. As we finish the organizational improvements, look for us to continue adding more and better content to inform our residents and businesses.

You'll certainly come across some broken links and inactive pages while we work on the website. But some difficulties can be expected in any construction zone – whether website or road construction. Your patience is appreciated.

**Dog tags.** All dogs over 5 months in age must be licensed according to city ordinance and state statute. A certificate showing the dog is immunized against rabies is required to obtain the license. Licenses are \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$15 for unaltered dogs; a \$5 late fee will be charged for dogs not licensed by March 31, or within one month of taking ownership for new dogs. Licenses may be obtained at City Hall during regular office hours – 7:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday.